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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 31, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

FAILED POLICY IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, again, I try to get to the floor once a week to talk about our failed policy in Afghanistan.

Last Thursday, an article in Politico reminded us of the difficulty of trying to change a culture like Afghanistan. It is nearly impossible. For centuries, outside influences have been trying, but we are never going to be able to change the belief systems and culture of the Middle East.

The Politico article stated that parts of Afghanistan were stuck in the 14th century. We are supporting a corrupt country and a culture where it is commonplace for grown men to have sexual relations with young boys. The American taxpayer should be outraged to know that their tax dollars are going to support this kind of practice.

Yesterday, The Washington Post published an article, titled, "U.S. Construction Projects in Afghanistan Challenged by Inspector General's Report." While discussing the fact that projects implemented in Afghanistan by Americans will not be possible for the Afghans to sustain once the United States leaves, the question for policymakers in Washington is whether the massive influx of American spending in Afghanistan is actually making the problem worse.

One such project to provide electricity requires purchasing diesel fuel to run the generators enough to power about 2,500 Afghan homes or small businesses and is projected to cost the United States' taxpayers about \$220 million through 2013.

Mr. Speaker, it is just billions and billions and billions going to Afghanistan and very little accountability, and yet we are cutting programs for the American people. To me, it makes no sense at all.

Mr. Speaker, again I brought a poster down. This is a new one that I purchased myself. There is a little girl holding her mother's arm. The mother is being escorted by an Army officer, and the little girl is looking at the caisson that is carrying her father. Her father is under an American flag. The father was killed in Afghanistan for America.

I would say to this family: You should be very proud of your father.

I would say to Congress: Why can't you understand that you've got a failed policy in Afghanistan, and these young men and women are dying?

These young men and women are losing their legs and arms, and yet we keep sending \$10 billion a month to a corrupt leader where they have the practice of adult men making love with boys over there in Afghanistan. I just don't understand the Congress, to be honest with you.

Mr. Speaker, as you and many know, I have Camp Lejeune Marine Base in my district. In the last 10 days, three marines have been killed in Afghanistan. I salute their families and thank them for the gift of that loved one.

How many more young men and women have to die in Afghanistan? How many more taxpayer dollars have to go to prop up a corrupt leader? Afghanistan will not survive under Karzai. The Taliban will eventually take over.

Mr. Speaker, before closing, as I always do, first I would like to ask the American people to contact their Member of Congress and say bring our troops home now, at least no later than 2014, and stop spending our taxpayers' money when you can't even account for what it is being spent for in Afghanistan, and start spending it right here in America to rebuild our roads, schools, and infrastructure.

So on behalf of this little girl and her mom, and all of the families who've given loved ones dying for freedom in Afghanistan, I will close this way:

God, please bless our men and women in uniform. God, please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. God, in your loving arms, hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. God, please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in God's eyes for the people of today and the people of tomorrow. And I ask God to please bless the President of the United States, to give him wisdom, courage, and strength to do what's right for God's people here. And three times I will say, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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